recking the organization.

Knights of Labor.

1888.

The year 1888 promises to be a year of splendid political developments, one and all rede to the glery and triumph of a

# UNITED DEMOCRACY.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1888.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.

### The Lessons of Facts.

How much more interesting, and consequently how much more instructive, are a few important facts relating to recent Cononal proceedings on the tariff than all gressional proceedings on the tariff smashers can offer us.

During the session of 1884, when the Democratic majority in the House of Represent atives was 69, there appeared the first Mon-RISON tariff bill. Its avowed purpose was to reduce the surplus, and to that end it proposed to make a cut of 20 per cent. in the tariff, leaving the internal taxes untouched. It was defeated by the opposition of the protectionist Democrats, who also succeed ed in preventing the free traders from making it the substance of the national Democratic platform in 1884.

Then came the Presidential election, and a noticeable feature of that contest was that the sole conspicuous Democrat called from abroad to assist in the canvass in New York Was SAMUEL J. RANDALL, the leader of the Democratic opposition to the Morrison bill. The election of the Forty-ninth Congress, which took place in November of that year

resulted in the Democratic majority in the

House being reduced from 69 to 40. In the winter of 1885 Col. Morrison again introduced a tariff bill on the same principle as the first, and it met with the same fate in the House, but it was followed by a still more decided rebuke in the country. The result of the election of the Fiftieth Congress showed that the Democratic majority was still further reduced from 40 to 12 and of that number the Hon, WILLIAM R. MOBRISON was no longer one, so there have been two Morrison bills, each aimed at the tariff, to the exclusion of the internal revenue, and each has been followed by a Congressional election, in which the reduction of

the Democratic majority was about 30. Can any one point to a more pregnan criticism upon the proposition of introducing in Congress what would substantially be an other Morrison bill? Does any one think that as a result of such an attempt the next Democratic candidate for the Presidency would not suffer the recent fate of the Hon WILLIAM RUPUS MORRISON?

## The Meaning of the Papal Jubilee.

As we look back upon the jubilee, so im posingly commemorated, not only in Rome but everywhere throughout Catholic Christendom, we can for the first time recognize with adequate distinctness the high pla reserved by history for the pontificate of LEC XIII. Those successors of St. Peter who have earned conspicuous titles to remembrance fall into three categories, ac cording to the height of moral or materia grandeur which they severally reached. It now seems evident that LEO XIII., to whom at first the Papacy seemed to promise noth ing but humiliation and despair, is destined to rank with the most venerated and exalted of his predecessors.

There have been Popes content to be up held and shielded by the secular arm, and willing, in return for absolute security and prodigal subventions, to forego a too vigilant and obtrusive exercise of their spiritual authority. Like other mediatized princes. the Pontiffs of this class have often been exemplary promoters of learning and splendid patrons of the arts. The Popes who dwelt in magnificence at Avignon, but in virtual vassalage to the Kings of France, were of this kind. They were safe, they were sumptwous, they were treated with a show of deference by the civil power that held them in its grasp. They incurred, however, the profound distrust of the rest of Christendom, a distrust that bred the heresles of WICKLIFFE and of Huss, and culminated in the dislocating schism between Pope and anti-Pope.

That is the class of Pontiffs to which LEO XIII. must have been relegated, had he, on sion to the throne of Sr. Peter, ac cepted the lavish subsidy and the scheme of Papal guarantees proffered by the Italion legislature in 1871. Then his court, no doubt, would have been maintained upon a footing of regal opulence, nor would any fort have been spared by King HUMBERT's Ministers to enhance the ostensible importance of an office which they controlled. But it is clear that under such conditions the Vatican would have been another Avignon, and that the rôle contemplated by the house of Savoy was the rôle of PHILIP the Fair.

To the second class of Popes belong those statesmen of the Renaissance who concen-trated their energies upon the creation of a great temporal power in the heart of Italy, which should more than counterbalance Naples in the south and Milan or Venice in the north, and firmly hold the leadership of the peninsula. This was the purpose kept in view for more than half a century by such men as SIXTUS IV., ALEXANDER VI., and his son the Duke of VALENTINO, JULIUS II., and LEOX. How the programme ended is well known: in the capture and devastation of the Holy City by an army of brigands professing to represent the anointed head of the Holy Roman Empire. We need not say that LEO XIII. has no pretensions to be in cluded in the category of Popes whose controlling aim was to be masters of a mighty

territorial dominion. For the Popes who occupy the highe place in the history of Europe and in the reverence of Europe we must look to the period of the crusades, and to the epoch which, following the heresles of LUTHER and of CALVIN, was marked by a great counter reformation within the bosom of the Church. At the former of these eras the Pontiffs, whose voice was so far reaching and so po-

tent outside of the peninsula, were often powerless at home. They were robbed, imprisoned, insulted, chased out of the Holy City by the populace of Rome or the baronage of Latium, and more than once it hap pened that he who held the keys of heaven knew not where on earth to lay his head. But amid lives haunted by the dread of outrage and destitution, of captivity and exile, such Pontiffs as GREGORY VII. and INNOCENT III. brought German Kaisers to their knees, made or unmade a King of England, a King of the Two Sicilies, a Count of Toulouse, and launched half of Europe against the infidel in Asia. So, too, with the stupendous moral revolution accomplished by such Popes as PIUS V. and SIXTUS V. in the last half of the sixteenth century. It was when the Spaniard had become the despot of three-fourths of Italy, and when the remnant of the Papal States existed only by his sufferance, that these successors of ST. PETER carried out within the Church that work of regeneration which rolled back the flood of heresy and recovered to Catholicism the whole of Latin and two-thirds of Teu-

tonic Europe. It is in the small and splendid list of which the chief modern ornaments are Prus V. and SIXTUS V. that LEO XIII. is destined to be classed. That is the true significance of the august pageant by which on Sunday the mant of the Vatican was honored.

### Queen Amelia Prefers the French.

Both the British and the French sued for the favor of Queen AMELIA, the elderly maiden lady who presides over the 5,000 people who till the dozen little islands of the Wallis group in the Pacific. The islands are fair to look upon, and the British coveted them as a desirable adjunct to their neigh boring possessions in the Fifis. The French also cast longing eyes at the Queen's do mains, desiring to augment their slender foothold in the central Pacific. Instead of making the islands the prev of the first comer in the usual manner, both powers chose a more gallant and pacific policy.

To the best of their ability they played the miable to Queen AMELIA, who, it is said, after the manner of her people, marks her celibate condition by wearing the most dishevelled coiffure in all her little realm.

A few years ago Lord Gondon, Governo of the Fiji Islands, sent his nephew to the Queen, and the young man expatiated in glowing language upon the beautles of a British protectorate. The plainspoken Queen treated the envoy with scant courtesy. "What do you want with us?" she exclaimed. "You are rich, and we are poor, and we can do you no good. We wish you to let us alone." Lord Gordon's nephew reported that the old lady was a turbulent person, and that the islands were not worth much anyhow; so Great Britain concluded to get along without the Wallis group.

The French were more patient and long suffering. They sent presents to her Majes-ty and missionaries to look after her spiritual welfare. When she declared that her little kingdom should never be swallowed up by white men like Fijl, they applauded her resolution. But all the while the French missionaries were waxing in influence. She now regards them as her best friends and ablest counsellors, and by their advice she asked last fall for the French protectorate that has just been declared over the Wallis Islands. So it happens at last that the French have a little group of their own in the waters where hitherto the English and German have taken the biggest prizes.

## Senator Blair as an Author.

The first book published this year by any member of the United States Senate will not be, as was expected, Senator Ingalls's novel of politics and society, but a treatise on the Temperance Movement, entitled "The Conflict between Man and Alcohol," by the Hon. HENRY W. BLAIR of New Hampshire.

Senator BLAIR's book will be issued in about two weeks. The publishers, a Boston firm, send us meagre extracts from the advance sheets, with a request to notice the Our information. this somewhat remarkable contribution to literature is derived from sheets of the work itself, which, together with the pictures that are to adorn Mr. BLAIR's book, have come to us from another source.

Man struggles with alcohol in Mr. BLAIR'S book through 540 large pages, most of them rather dull reading. However excellent may be the intentions of the senior Senator from New Hampshire, he has been endowed by nature neither with the intellectual virility nor with the literary capacity needed to give freshness and force to his treatment of a threadbare, if important theme. The volume drones along like an indefinite prolongation of one of Senator BLAIR's speeches in Congress; and, as everybody knows, Mr. BLAIR's speeches do not fire the heart. It stretches itself out like an amplified article written by Mr. BLAIR for some magazine or review; and, as everybody likewise is aware, Mr. BLAIR'S magazine articles do not make converts. The result of his literary efforts is a compilation and compendium of temperance arguments, and s directory and history of temperance organizations. It will no doubt be bought and read by men and women already interested in the temperance movement; but it is very far from being a clarion trumpet call, or a bombshell pitched directly into King Alcohol's camp. This is hardly Mr. BLAIR's fault. It is not earnestness or industry that he lacks, but something else.

Nothing is more interesting in this volume than the evidence it affords of the extent to which man's struggle with alcohol is now being carried on by women. Of the fiftyseven temperance leaders whose prominence in the agitation entitles them to full-page portraits and the pictures are very good, by the way-not less than thirty-two, or more than one-half, are ladies. We are introduced to dozens of the energetic, de voted, and accomplished women whose work n the Woman's Christian Temperance Union throughout the country is now doing more for the cause of temperance than Mr. BLAIB's speeches in Congress or the books he writes. The faces show a high order of intelligence and moral attractiveness, and that much cannot truthfully be said of all of the masculine adversaries of alcohol whom Mr. BLAIB has deemed worthy of portraiture

We cannot regard Mr. BLAIR as competen to deal with or even to report on the medical and scientific aspects of the liquor question, to which he has devoted so large a part of the volume. He is manifestly incapable of weighing the divergent opinions of medical authorides upon the physical effects of alcohol. He approaches the subject, not in the scientific spirit, but in that of the agitator and revival-

st. The consequence is that he siezes upon the opinions of eccentrics and extremists, and scepts them unhesitatingly as best suited to rednforce his own views respecting the evils of the liquor traffic; and thus he presents a grotesquely exaggerated and untrue idea of the prevailing medical opinion respecting the value of alcohol as food and medicine. His unconscious suppressions and misrepresentations are therefore highly pernicious—quite as pernicious as the mouth

ings of the platform crank who figures that the rye whiskey drank every year in America would float the merchant navies of the whole vorld; or who declares before Gop that he yould rather see his sick child die than owe its life to a teaspoonful of brandy.

We are sorry to add that Senator BLAIR seconds even to the vulgar trick of printing in a popular work on temperance the most horrible colored plates of morbid physiology which can be forced into connection with nis text. If these pictures were less frightful to the eye, or if they were in reality more eccessary to the development of his argument, the effect would almost be ludicrous; since the Senator's scheme of illustration closely associates the Rev. T. DE WITT PATAMAGE with the Drunkard's Ulcerous Stomach, while the Liver in a Cheesy and Cancerous Degeneration forms a companion plece to the complacent features of the Rev JOSEPH COOK. But as it is, the effect is dis gusting rather than humorous.

Nor does Senator BLAIR appear to much better advantage when he drops physiology and pathology and takes up statesmanship. He attempts to make the temperance cause shoulder and carry his crank Educational Bill; and he declares that by a Constitu tional amendment "the general Governmen should be clothed with jurisdiction to pro hibit the manufacture, sale, importation, exportation, and transportation of intoxicating drinks." Then, says Mr. BLAIR, "when the deafening crash and blinding glare and sulphurous smoke and smell "-of this radical change in national policy-"have passed away, we or our children shall behold King Alcohol prone and dead in his own gutterlain by the lightnings of God."

Mr. BLAIR goes even further than thisand imagine a Senator of the United States writing such sublime rot as here follows, even for sale as a subscription book:

"But there is one thing more that must be done. We must not be satisfied with our own redemption. Our na-tion must become an active agency in the great family of nations, for the destruction of the traffic throughout

"The business must be placed in the process of ult ate extinction everywhere. One nation in earnest can st all the needed machinery in motion. Let us build set all the needed machinery in motion. Let us blind our navy, outlaw the liquor traffic, dectare it piracy when conducted on the high seak, and suppress it with shot and shell. It is worse than the trade in slaves. Capture or sink every ship that carries the contraband article, and give it to the waves. No nation will long contend for this raffic against the sincere and aggressive action of the "Let America take her position. Ah! if we were only

n possession of our own Government! If we were only nearnest ourselves! Then what might we not do next? If this is Mr. BLAIR's programme, the

American people may well thank fortune that Mr. BLAIR and fanatics like him are not yet in possession of the Government. No wilder, crazier writing than his has ever come from the pen of any politician, not to say any Senator of the United States. But perhaps Mr. BLAIR is not quite in earnest himself. Perhaps he does not really expect or want to send a United States man-of-war to cruise off the harbors of Cadiz and Bordeaux, with instructions to sink with shot and shell every wine-laden craft that may try to crawl out upon the high seas.

There is one thing that inclines us to believe that Senator BLAIR is saner and more practical than his writings indicate.

We refer to the fact that although he urges and adjures every temperance believer to become a political Prohibitionist, he still maintains his own political relations with the only party at present able to keep him in the United States Senate as a Sena tor from New Hampshire.

#### The New Project for the Reconstruction of Mr. Powderly's Order.

The holding of a National Convention of Knights of Labor, in order to settle existing troubles, is now demanded by the Provisional Committee in Washington. They charge the ruling bosses with arbitrary misdeeds, the misappropriation of money, the mismanagement of business, and the suppression of the voice of the minority They have come to the conclusion that no remedy for the evils complained of can be obtained by ordinary means. There is no use of appealing to the General Executive body against which accusations are brought; and there is no use of appealing to Mr. POWDERLY, for he is implicated as much as his colleagues. The Board has an iron grip on the machinery of the order; it controls the treasury without the ordinary responsibilities of fiduciary agents, and the only appeal from its action is to a national convention of elected delegates. In trying to secure the holding of a special convention. the Provisional Committee at Washington do not forget that it can be called only by the Board which is under accusation, and that the sole hope of obtaining it is through an overwhelming demand by the assemblies throughout the country. There are signs that a large number of assemblies see the necessity of doing what is proposed.

The Provisional Committee announce their desire to obtain fundamental changes through the means of the special convention. They seek, in fact, as we learn from their manifesto, to secure nothing less than the "general reconstruction" of the order of the Knights of Labor. They are convinced by experience that mere patchwork can be of no further service, and that the thing needed for the salvation of the order is a change of policy and practice, and a method of management different from that by which the ring has intrenched itself at eadquarters. In this view of the case they are assuredly in the right, and there is reason to believe that they would be upheld in it if a vote of the entire membership of the

There is a memorable precedent for the action demanded by the Provisional Committee. In the spring of 1886, when the wrangling in the order endangered its exstence, a special national convention was held in Cleveland; and every one who is aware of the existing condition of things knows that there is vastly more need of such a convention now than there was then. In the interest of the large body of working people yet belonging to Mr. Powderly's organization, it is therefore to be desired that they should sustain the Washington project for a convention to bring about the 'general reconstruction" of the order. The phrase used in the Provisional Committee's manifesto, "general reconstruction," is a fitting description of the work to be undertaken, and it must also be thorough not less than comprehensive. It will be the duty of the Convention to examine the grounds of the widespread disaffection which has been made visible through the breaches in the lines of the order, through the enormous desertion from its ranks, through the revolt against its ruling Board, and through the setting up of the rival organization

dable proportions in which they now appear before the public. Moreover, the holding of the Convention will give Boss POWDERLY the opportunity of presenting his resignation, in accordance with the desire which he has again expressed in the strongest terms, and it will also fur-nish the occasion for turning out the incom-

which has taken the field as an adversary

It is since the adjournment of the Genera

Assembly in October last at Minneapoli

that these things have assumed the formi

petent and corrupt Executive Board that is

The general and thorough reconstruction of the order and the choice of fit and proper leaders to manage its business are things imperatively needed just now by the

Why Do Women Shun Him? This is a very interesting case, and we sope our treatment of it will prove valuable

to many others besides our correspondent: "I am an Englishman, 26 years of age, a civil engines "I am an Englishman, 20 years of age, a civil engineer by profession, and emigrated to the States four years age. I cannot complain of not making a good living, as I have held good places from the time I first landed. My trouble is this: Outside of my landlady, I have not spoken to nor made the acquaintance of any lady during these four years. Probably one reason for this is that I have almost whell depart that the given washing the study. The wholly during that time given myself up to study. The result of this study is that I have become a Socialist and On account of this I am as completely tabooed as if I was on a lone saland in the Pacific Ocean. Not being a roysters, I cannot find consolation or solace in the many saloons of this city. Being a Socialist, I am demany saloons or this city. Being a Socialist, I am de-barred from making acquaintances among the class of people I should like to mingle with. Being a hater of oresds and an advanced agnostic, I am debarred from forming acquaintance with the opposite sex. Conse-quantly, as the years roll on, I find myself more and more addicted to the cup that not only cheers, but ine-briates. I do not like the idea of becoming a toper, but I fear the result of these secret potations.

Franch: A to not like the idea of secentials copie, said fair the result of these secret potations.

"Now, sir, what can you prescribe? Do not attempt to turn me from my ideas of society and religion. My yiews on these subjects are too deeply rooted to be changed by any human being.

hanged by any human being.
"I would add that if I wished to make pro street firstions, I can do that any day in the week, for -pardon my conceit—I am not at all a bad-looking chap; and, as I said, I cannot help seeing evidences of the im-pression I make on those silly girls and women who are addicted to the dangerous habit of direction."

It seems, then, that although he is not unattractive to them in appearance, women uniformly fly from our English friend so soon as he begins to talk. What is the meaning of that? Is it because of his agnostic and socialistic opinions, as he imagines? Nonsense: it is because he makes of himsel an intolerable bore.

He is probably one of those men who talk and persist in talking without the slightest regard to the sentiments of those they address and who are all the time trying to turn conversation into controversy by putting forward opinions they know are unpalatable, for the purpose of having them combated. Such men are objectionable to women, and to sensible people generally, for they destroy the pleasure of social intercourse, and it is worth no one's while to wrangle with them under any circumstances.

If our English friend wishes to air his agnostic and socialistic notions, perhaps he can get a chance to do so in the Nineteenth Century Club, which seems to be engaged in settling the problems of time and eternity with the aid of all sorts of philosophers, and where simple civility will compel very clever and beautiful women to listen to him as it they were really interested in what he had to say. But, in truth, there is nothing novel about agnosticism and socialism in these days. They are subjects which have been fairly talked out by fellows like this English man, who imagine that what is new to them s new to everybody else, and who talk the more the less they know about them.

It is no wonder that women fly from him as an intolerable bore, and they will continue to do so until, forgetting to parade himself and his opinions, he tries to be agreeable to other people.

The Kansas City Times takes a sensible and loyally Democratic view of the situation. It very properly characterizes the reports of the lying and traitorous World concerning the relations of Speaker CARLISLE and Mr. RAN DALL as "stuff too full of transparent falsehood to be even commented upon by honest men." Then it goes on to say:

"Those who knew anything about them at all or cared in any degree to inform themselves, knew that they could only be of one sort—relationships of mutual respect, friendship, and confidence. Long ago, and when the Democrats were but a mere handful in the House, RANDALL and CARLISLE stood shoulder to shoulder in many a hot parliamentary fight, and shoulder to shoulde resisted and baffled many a partisan attempt at victor legislation. It was in those days of radical intolerance and proscription that their friendship was first formed and, as a matter of course, and because of inborn and thrown together, the more they saw of each other, and the more they had to do with one another, the more this friendship was comented, deepened, and expanded. It was very natural and thoroughly honest and dis-

Honest Democratic newspapers all over the country share the opinion of our Kansas City contemporary. Mr. RANDALL and Speake CARLIBLE stand shoulder to shoulder for the success of the United Democracy. It is the World that does the lying.

The Hon. Don M. Dickinson is learning the ropes at the General Post Office. Probably Mr. Dickinson already has his eagle eye upor GREEN ARSENIC HOWARD, the postage stamp clerk who invented the sickly green stamp.

Not many weeks ago the leading news paper of Alabama, the Mobile Register, impres sively declared its sentiment in favor of protect tion to American industries and American workingmen; and now we find the following utterance in the Age of Birmingham, another im portant Democratic journal of the same State "We will carry the protection banner for Alabama and Alabama's workingmen if no other paper will do it,

This is now the prevailing opinion of every Southern State except, possibly, Florida and Mississippi. The changes that have taken place in those great commonwealths during th past twenty years are exceedingly instructive

and take our chances."

We observe with attention not unmixed with hope a very interesting literary experi ment which is now going forward in the iron making city of Pittsburgh. We refer to the publication of the Bulletin, a weekly journal of social and literary life, displaying a degree of ability and variety unusual in publications of the kind. It is a quarto sheet of twenty pages of three columns each, with a reasonable but not excessive quantity of pictorial illustrations It has talent and vivacity, and, what is mor sense. We wish for the Bulletin all possible success, and yet it seems difficult to believe that a provincial and manufacturing town car support a literary journal of a character so ele vated and so expensive.

The Democratic canvass, or rather the two rival Democratic canvasses in Louisiana are busily pursued. Ferret opus; it's hot work. It seems hardly necessary, however, that pistols should be used to accentuate the arguments Both sides will need all the Democratic votes they can get, unless they mean to elect a Republican, and continue as incandescent afte the nomination as before.

Apparently the jolly British tars don't mean to try for the America's Cup next year. And yet, 'tis better to have tried and lost than never to have tried at all.

on Sunday evening by the club of which he is President, was one of the most delightful affairs of the sort which we ever witnessed. Most of the speeches were of uncommon excellence, especially those of Mr. Steele Mackaye, Mr. WALLACE, Mr. HEWITT, Judge BARRETT, and Mr. Godwin, but the speech of Mr. William WINTER of the Tribune merits peculiar praise not merely for the appropriateness and felicity of its ideas and the elevation of its feeling, but for its extraordinary beauty of composition and expression. It is a rare thing to meet with such an admirable piece of literary art, and it was most appropriately presented on an occa-

sion devoted to the glorification of art and to the praise of a distinguished artist now, un fortunately for the public, temporarily retired from the active pursuit of his professi

One of the first acts of the New York Legis sture should be to repeal the Saturday Half Holiday law. It does no good to anybody. and works great injury to the business of this

We have received from an experienced ob erver, whose practical knowledge of politics goes back to the log cabin and hard cider revo ution of 1840, a striking prediction respect the coming campaign of this year:

"You need have no concern about the nomination of BLAINE OF CLEVELIND. They will not be nominated for the Presidency, either of them, but they will both live to enjoy the blessings of good government.

enjoy the blessings of good government.

"The nominees this year will be men of the people, and for the people. The campaign on the winning side will partake somewhat of the features of the Harsson contest in 1840. The coon skin, the hunting shirt, the log cabin, the hard cider, and other stirring features are likely to be more or less reproduced before the great gatherings of the people which will be held in the course of the struggle. There will be no postponement on ac-count of the weather; besides, the weather will be good.

All this is highly suggestive, and if our correspondent would only complete his prediction by telling who the candidates really will be, nd who will be elected, he would leave nothing to be desired.

The announcement that the gigantic Lick telescope on Mount Hamilton in California is at last ready for its work of exploring the heavens will interest many people besides the asronomers. This is the greatest refracting telscope in the world, and now that its maker, ALVAN CLARK, is dead, there is very little probability that it will ever have a rival, unless some unexpected discovery should greatly advance the art of telescope making. It is to be hoped that this wonderful glass will be used to better purpose than most of the great telescopes serve to-day. If Mr. Lick's money sould have provided a new HERSCHEL as wel as a mighty telescope, we should now expect to hear interesting news from the sky.

There are now more miles of railroad in Texas than in either New York or Pennsylvania. et who would have believed it?

Illinois leads Texas by more than 2,000 miles Next to Illinois, in order, come Iowa, Kansas Texas, and Pennsylvania. New York is sixth in this respect.

All the railroads, however, lead to New York. SOME NEW YEAR'S DAY ORSERVATIONS.

Up town yesterday, cabe carried one gentleman and ally two. In Brooklyn each cab carried three or four, and in the lower wards of this city they either carried six or gave place to omnibuses which held fifteen or twenty. Toward midnight it was noticeable that as much noise proceeded from the ordinary cab as from

Before noon it was interesting to note in how many vindows young women half hid themselves behind the ace curtains and peered out at the streets impatient for ority were busied with admitting and bidding farewel to callers there were still some anxious faces by th curtain edges as well as half views of misses sitting openly at the windows pretending to read books and simulating indifference to their fate.

The elevated cars afforded many queer views of inte riors, but none were more peculiar than those which showed that some households yet maintain the custom of rehabiliting the Christmas tree, loading it once again with the presents of Christmas already so damaged that one-armed dolls were the rule and unbroken carts and

The bakers, grocers, and butchers worked until 10 o'clock, and the barbers until I o'clock. One barber, whose shop is in Williamsburgh, celebrated the day by offering to his customers cake and stimulants, appetizingly displayed on a table in the rear of his shop. Mer got shaved who had shaved themselves for years. All over the three towns liquor dealers and tobacconists here and there kept up the ancient custom of giving away pocket flasks, quart bottles, and cigars as thick as

A tramp on Fulton street accosted two men with a request for two cents. "I've got three," said he, "and I want to make it five." One of the men gave him a fivecent piece. He instantly turned to the other and enter

"Get along with you," said the second man. "Give me two cents, please," said the tramp. "I wanted ... beer when I only had three cents, but now I've got eight cents I want whistey."

Two in every three men on the streets made their fire appearance with ornaments gotten on Christmas. New umbrellas, new hats, new silk mufflers, and new gloves were everywhere displayed, and nearly every man betrayed the newness of what he had by looking at it or fumbling with it continu In the fashionable world many of the leaders are out

of town, following the custom of spending the holidays amid great jollifications at their country houses. Tuxedo Park and Pelham are both crowded, and Lenex is tolerably lively. Callers upon those who remained in town were often confronted with the card baskets tied to the ells or door knobs to announce that cards but no vis itors would be received.

Mayor A. C. Chapin of Brooklyn spent two hours at the street, making himself so agreeable as to lead the youn men to wonder why politicians call him the coldest mar except Ira Davenport, in the State. Mr. Chapin hasfed duced from wide and careful reading and observation the belief that few men make fortunes until after the are forty-five years of age. The most marked except to the rule is Jay Gould, of course, but he firmly belie n the rule. It is comforting to all who, like him, hav not yet reached that age.

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

The friends of Miss Annie Robe, the actress, are con dently expecting cards of invitation to her wedding in a week or so. It was stated yesterday by one of Miss Robe's personal friends that Mr. Griswold, wit come of \$20,000 a year, inherited from his father's legal sa, will be the happy man, and that after her man riage Miss Robe will retire from the stage.

It was said at Col. Fellows's reception in the Aste House yesterday that Judge Martine intends to begin a severe system of banting, and that he has determined pon such a course because his new place will give him few opportunities for exercise.

This has been the unhappiest New Year since 1883 for the cierks in Wall street brokers offices. The Christ-mas and New Year gratuities from the brokers to the clerks have shrunk 50@75 per cent. One of the un tunate clerks remarked yesterday: "Our cashier always received \$2,500 for 'a New Year's' from the boss; this year he got only \$1,500. Other fellows who got \$1,000 and \$500 were cut down one-half, and all are been a beastly holiday season for us." There are those in Wall street who believe that if something isn't done to cut down the Treasury surplus these grumblers by next year will be mighty thankful for fresh air.

It appears that New Year's presents are really more popular than Christmas presents, for this reason: Nobody seems able to divine just what one wants for a Christmas present, and nine out of ten make the wrong gues But after the Christmas giving is over the thing that on wants and didn't get is expressed with more than usua freedom. That is the opportunity of the truly thought ful friend, who goes and buys the desired article for

Daniel Manning's wealth has been overes some have said that he was worth \$500,000. Cut the amount in two and the figure will be nearer right noticeable that precious little of this came from any political office or any political scheme. He probably positical omes or any positions science. He probably gave more in solid cash to politics than politics gave to him. His wealth came chiefly from investments in Albany. His first hold on money in a large way was obtained through the Commercial Bank. His estate consists of an interest in that corporation, and stock in the Gas, Ricctric, and Street Railway Companies of his native town, besides his part in the Argus. Of real property there are only three pieces, his new house on Washington avenue, his old one on Lancaster street, and or other in which another son lives.

Cel. Ingersell and Shakespear TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ser: In Col

The dinner given to Mr. LESTER WALLACK

"Lay her in the earth, And from her fair and unpolluted desh Let violets spring!" I know of none; the lines are: "Lay her i" the earth:
And from her fair and unpolluted flesh
May violets epring."
To quote Shakespears incorrectly is as bad as being an
infidel.
N. G.

Letting Wall Enough Alone. Landlady—Jane, pass Mr. Dumley the sait for his age. Thanks not say sait. This age is none too ARTTING IT UP PRETTY STEEP.

A Strange Bill for the Increase of Pe WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.-A bill has been preparsed in the Fiftieth Congress, whose purpose is to increase the pensions of the sur-viving soldiers and sailors of the war of 1812

to \$25 a month. They now get \$3 a month.

The reason for this proposed increase does not distinctly appear. It is probably based on the indisputable fact that there are fewer of these veterans now surviving than there were several years ago. A vague idea seems to pos-sess its authors and supporters that the size of the pension ought to be in inverse ratio to the number of the beneficiaries, so that the gradual decrease of any class of pensioners at length calls for an increase in the individual amounts payable to those that remain. Back of this surious notion is another, no less extraor linary, that it will never do to allow any light ening of the pension burdens of the country. This theory completes the parallel between them and the huge war taxes of European

This theory completes the parallel between them and the huge war taxes of European countries. When the prevalence or prospect of peace would naturally permit some diminution in the prodigious military establishments of Europe, all sorts of devices, including the starting of fictitious war alarms, are resorted to in order to avoid a lessening of the annual military budget.

The last annual report of Commissioner Black shows that there were at the close of the fiscal year nearly 13,000 persons still drawing pensions on account of a war ended more than seventy-two years before—a war,too, that called together no very large armies. There were still 1,069 persons catalogued on the 30th of June last as survivors of the war of 1812, and 11.831 widows, making an aggregate of 12,900. Their pensions called for 31.807.056 annually. It does not appear that the new pension scheme proposes to treble the allowance given to the widows as well as to the actual survivors, but perhaps they, too, may hope for 225 a month under an amendment to the original proposition. The veterans of 1812 and their widows are drawing pensions for enlistment solely, without wounds or disability. These pensions or home guards and the widows of home guards who may never have fired a gun or seen a hostile redcoat. They may be in comfortable circumstances or millionaires.

It is true that the veterans of 1812 are fast dropping off: and yet there are still additions to the 1812 roll. Last year, for example, there were no fewer than eight survivors and 281 widows who either received new pensions or increases of old ones. According to all precedent, the sudden increase of the rate from \$96 a year to \$900 would result in the discovery of an unexpected supply of survivors and widows, stimulated thereby to claim admittance to the roll.

The preparation of the proposerous bill is perhaps the legiting at fruit of the law passed by the Forty-nath

stimulated thereby to claim admittance to the roll.

This preposterous bill is perhaps the legitimate fruit of the law passed by the Forty-ninth Congress, increasing the traditional rate of \$8 a month for ordinary pensions to \$12, in the case of a loss that included at least 100,000 persons. When a rate once established is thus augmented, there is no prospect of ever decreasing pension burdens. The amount paid for pensions since 1881 has been \$83,440,293.28 up to June 30, 1897, and the annual payments are now so much greater than ever before that by the end of the century, the aggregate will be not far from \$2,000,000,000, even at the present rates. But there is no telling what it will be fi, in addition to the enormous numbers of pensioners annually added to the rolls, the rates for whole classes are to be augmented from time to time above the standards originally fixed upon as just and liberal.

## Polygamy in New Magiand

From the Boston Republ THE SUN administers a very effective blow at the pharisaism of those bumptious Republican clubs that recently met in its city, and, among other things, declared that their party would never rest from its labors until it had abolished polygamy, ignorance, and intemperance, which the clubs in question characterized as "triplets of barbarism". as "triplets of barbarism."

Says our New York contemporary in reply to this boastful programme. "Parither in reply to

as "triplets of barbarism."

Says our New York contemporary in reply to this boastful programme: "Possibly intemperance may be abolished by the anti-salcon Republicans, but polygamy is too firmly rooted, especially in New England, to be so soon torn up." and that THE SUN is correct in this latter statement is incontestably proven by the divorce statistics, especially those of this State, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

THE SUN might have even gone further, and stated that the consecutive sort of polygamy which flourishes so freely here in New England is a more cowardly kind than the one that is found out at Utah, inasmuch as it abandons the divorced wife entirely, and frees the polygamous husband from all responsibility in her regard after he has succeeded in casting her off, whereas Mormon polygamists provide for their first wives, no matter to how many others they may become "sealed."

If our Republican reformers are in earnest in their desire to wage war on the relics of barbarism, let them begin by clubbing to death this cowardly consecutive polygamy, which is so thoroughly a New England evvi.

Persion Notes of Real Interest. Italy's military deficit is £11,000,000.

The Australians are the greatest betters in the world. £20,000,000 change hands annually over horse races. In Victoria alone there are 250 registered bookmakers. It is computed that £150,000 are annually bet on foo A white collie has been presented to the Queen as an

unheard of rarity. The Beriin beer drinkers are the fastest in Europe. In a certain saloon there a mechanical lion roars when a new cask is tapped, and that incites every one to ish his glass and order a new one.

The German booksellers have resolved to give no morpeace.

The stage scores again. It has just been discovere that Sir Morell Mackenzie is the son of Mr. "Com

who for years was a member of Buckstone's company.

The first telegram of "the little box," as the Smith Kilrain fight was described to a prying gendarme reached London via New York one hour after it wa cached London via New York one hour at oublished in Tuz Evzzing Sun, Craig-y-Nos, Patti's Welsh castle, is for sale. The Prince of Wales was recently shot while on

pered his Royal Highness glanced from the feathers of the bird that the Baron hit. the bird that the Baron hit.

Herbert Spencer is in very poor health. Like Mayor
Hewitt, he suffers from insomnia.

Attendance at the London Zoölogical Garden has
greatly fallon off during the past year, owing in a large

e to Buffalo Bill's entertain Two English regiments out of their turn are now in readiness to be sent to Ireland. Something is thought to

An attempt is being made to classify the London club into intellectual and non-intellectual.

The Empress of Russia, on her fortieth birthday, Nov. 27, received an emerald necklade composed of fort

es, which had been collected during the past two years at an immense expense. The ex-Khedive of Egypt has taken up his residence

ceived by the natives. At a recent meeting of the Philological Society it was announced that cloven newspapers were published in Volopuk, and the students of the language number half

Sarah Bernhardt is having great sport with her tw young lieus, which are allowed to play about her studio. Sarah is now modelling a life-sized group representing "The God of Love trampling on two prostrate fema forms." A one-act drama from her pen is also expected forms." A one-act drams from her pen is also expected to be presented at the Odeon in about a month. Recent experiments with the Nordenfeldt submerged torpedo boat were highly successful. At night she approached a boat that was expecting her to within four hundred yards, the agreed distance, without being noticed. Then she dived and rose within a hundred yards of the ship with a snort like a whale and then disappeared. She was regarded as a great success. The King of Helgium has devised the ingenious attempt to introduce a railroad into Norocco by sending the Sui-

to introduce a railroad into Morocco by sending the Suitau a complete railway train with a lot of rails as a

A French plan has appeared of making a bridge across the British Channel 120 feet high. For the first time in its existence the Gobelin factory has a strike. The topissiers have organized, and say that there are too many of them, and that the old hands

uid be pensioned off. It is said that as far back as 1870 the German Crown Prince complained of his throat. When at the spanish court he said: "I shall never be able to command the soldlers in the loud voice of my father; my throat is as

sensitive as a prima donna'a."

As a result of recent notoriety, Sir Morell Mackensin treated lately, in one day, eighty-four sufferers from the Lord Colin Campbell has just been discharged from bankruptcy. His divorce case cost £4,043. The Liverpool Journal of Commerce says that "one of the most startiling and important inventions of the day" for propelling vessels by steam is now being considered, and £100,000 have been offered for the patent.

On the Clyde last year 185,000 tons of shipping were built, against 172,000 the year before. Much more will be Let Every Joker Pay Herd.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Will you do a host of young ladies whose hair used to be considered better than no hair at all a very perticular favor by beginning the new year with a determination not to perpetuate that horrid joke about the white horses? and agreatly oblige

New York, Jan. 2. Shifting the Responsibility.

Magistrate (to culprit)-Didn't I tell you tha if you ever showed your face here again it would go hard with you?
Onlyris—Yis, yor Ronor, but, begorrs. I enddent help
the life the politormen's fanis, not motion.

## SUNBEAMS.

-Eight-year-old Floyd Tuft of Westville And the Georgia parsons are getting

Not all the Georgia parsons are getting

rich. One in Upson county, who has married ill couples has received in fees just \$5, and that came from on man. The other 110 paid nothing.

-Coffee John, the proprietor of a Minneapolis rectaurant, on a bet of \$10, recently ate 500 cysters in two hours. He are 125 raw, 125 stewed, and 250 steamed, and finished with thirteen minutes to spare.

—A St. Paul man, who has a well-stocked

fish pond, has tamed a big trout so that it comes at his call, eats from his hand, and shows its delight by jame.

ing out of the water and turning in the air with very

plain manifestations of joy.

—Persons troubled with a tendency to stoop, and who are becoming round shouldered, are ad-vised to walk with the palms of the hands forward, the thumbs outward. It will do wonders toward straighten-ing a bent form, as any soldier will testify.

-A middle-aged man with a young woman on his arm entered the home of a parson in Augusta, Mo., and said that they wanted to be married. They were invited into the parior, and, as they walked in, the man said cheerfully, as he looked around: "Oh, yes! I've been married in this room once before." Then the

-For several years Dillard Brewins, a bilind man of Indianapolis and his wife have been de-pendent on charity for support. She was the adopted child of rich Pennsylvaniana, who, when she married a poor young man, would have nothing to do with her. The other day she heard that her foster parents had died, leaving her an estate valued at nearly a million dollars. —On Sept. 6 a Springfield man mailed a

postal card with the idea of having it make the tour of the world. In ninety-five days three hours and thirty minutes he received it again. It bore the postmarks of San Francisco, Sept. 12; Hong Kong, Oct. 25; Liverpool, Nov. 29; and Springfield again, Dec. 10. Out of this time the card was held six days at Hong Kong and twolve hours at Liverpool. -Persons attending a funeral at Bochester, Pa., were rather surprised the other day when, during the services, a small boy passed among them and handed each the oard of an undertaking firm, on

which was the information that the firm was prepared to furnish coffine, hearsen carriages, and bearers at the very lowest rates. The firm was not the one at that moment engaged in superintending the funeral.

—On the night following the battle of Hatcher's Run, Va., Robert C. Clair of Mill Hill, Pa., was on reserve picket duty. During the night he heard a wounded soldier, who lay without the lines, meaning to aid him, but at length Clair tried it. He reached the man and brought him safely within the lines. The wounded soldier was Thomas H. Hinton of Marblehead, Mass, and when he died recently he left all his property,

which was the information that the firm was prepared

### The British Huntsman's Move Against Wire Fences.

valued at \$18,000, to the man who had saved his life

From the St. James's Gasette A meeting in connection with the Atherstone Hunt was held yesterday, Dec. 20, at Atherstone the presidency of Capt. Oakley, the master, to consider how to obviate the difficulty which has arisen from the recent increase in the adoption of wire fencing. Capt. Oakley said great danguage arises the moid spread of wire fencing, which endangered the lives of all led to acts of cruelty to horses and hounds. He supply the appointment of a committee to independent of the property of the supply of the property of the pr gested the appointment of a committee to induce o piers of land to discontinue as far as possible the us

It was stated that wire fencing was 90 per cent some parts of the country that bounds had been literally out to pieces. The committee was appointed, and the meeting unanimously resolved to request landowners to provide their tenants with timber for fencing.

## How the Air Brake Works.

From the Chicago Journal. Said a railroad man to me to-day: "I'll bet not one in a hundred of the people who travel on railroad trains understand how the pressure of air is used to apply the brakes to a train. When the air brake was first invented the air was turned into the cylinder under each car when the car was to be stopped, and the pressure was exerted to force the brakes up against the wheels. But at the present day the brakes are held against the wheels by springs, and the air is turned into the cylinders to push the brakes away from the wheels as long as the train is in motion. When it is desired to stop the train the air is let out, and then the springs apply the brakes and stop the train. This last method of using air pressure has great advantages over the old

way on the score of safety.

"Whenever an accident happens to a train one of the first effects it is apt to have is to rupture the air pipes leading from the augine to the cylinders under the cars; and that of itself stops the train instantly. It is very important for everybody to understand this matter, because a child 5 years old can stop a train in thriv de from any car in the train if he simply underseconds from any car in the train if he simply under-stands how. You will see, if you look for it, that there is a sort of rope projecting from the tollet room of every oar. That connects with the air pipes under the train. If you catch hold of it and give it a little jerk in will stop the train before it has gone 200 yards."

#### The Armies of Europe. From the Court Journal

tary powers of Europe" display their proportions in a very striking manner in Col. Vogt's work on "The European Armies of the Present." The mobilised strength of France is set down at 2,051,458 troops, ex-clusive of the territorial army, which is equally large; that of Russia at 1,022,405; Germany, 1,468,690, and Anstria-Hungry, 1.035,985. The military strength of Italy has now attained proportions that would have been deemed incredible ten years ago. Including mi-lita it is alleged to amount to 2,387,832 men. If, however, a similar inclusion be made in the case of Russia, the military strength of that power will probably be found to exceed even that of the French republic. Compared with these figures the numerical proportions of pared with these figures the numerical proportions of the British army ought almost to satisfy the members of the Peace Society. Including our militia and volum-teers, as well as the Indian army, we can just muster 781,677 troops. And these have to serve for the defence of territory distributed over a very much wider area than that ruled by any of the other powers.

## The Queer Courts of France.

A Paris jury yesterday acquitted a man who last august by repeated blows and stabs with a sword cane, killed his divorced wife. Ristelhuber, an Aisatian, and his wife, also an Aisatian, had three children. Four years ago he discovered that his wife was unfaithful, and he applied for a divorce. Before the trial came on he wrote a letter to his wife's family, in which he spoke his mind respecting her. Thereupon she instituted a cross-suit for divorce on the ground that she had been villed. The Court granted both applications, but assigned the children to the husband. On the 21st of August Ristelhuber met his ex-wife coming out of a beer shop in company with some women and a man. She was singing bolisterously. Ristelhuber rushed on her and structher till she fell dead. Two loaded revolvers were found in this poon that he accurace was mat there was no present the company of the court of the court. It is not not not been the wife's lorer, and was so incensed as to lose all self-control. The jury acquitted him, and the audience applanded the verdict. From the St. James's Gasette.

quitted him, and the audience applauded the verdict.

From the Court Journal.

In the Department of Indre a man has been tried on the charge of murdering an infant six months old by journing sulpharic soid down its triener pleased that he deals of the flendish soit. The prisoner pleased that he was madies to provide method of slaying his youngest burden. A jury of brutes and idiots sympathised with him, and the murderer is at liberty to case his infamous existence by another stroke of infanticide.

The Madrid Theatre to be Pulled Bown. From the London Times.

The Spanish National Theorems at Madrid is to be pulled down because of its daugerous condition. It has stood for over 200 years, and has seen the master pieces of Lope de vega and of Calderon produced on it stage. But it was so means that the Standalpal Council stage. But it was so means that the Standalpal Council secured to close it. all moders improvement her these tre on the sit all moders improvement the standalpal to the produced of the standalpal built by moniss for the representation of mirror charts and outso, and then passed into the postule sites it was considered. The first hired players were an Italian troupe, who performed burlesques and pantomines. The performances took place by day time, the theatre being result only a walled enclosure, the spectators standing promiscuously in the paved courty and

the genuine National Theatre arose in the reign of Philip IV., the protector of the drama and of players, in the early part of the seventeenth century. A small charge was made for suirrance, amounting to about 3d, of our money. House, "of raised seats were assirted by royal order to distinguished personance. One of the last pieces niayed in it was the "discotta" of Echegaray. Buring the relatiding the company will play in a theatre in one of the suburbs which has been closed for a long time.

A New Order In the Angilean Church.

From the London Standard. At Lichfield Cathedral Biahon Maclagan yesterday, Dec. 18, ordained fourteen deacnes and eight priests. Among the candidates was disserted as permanent of the control and he is believed to be the first conclude. The matter of the priest of the second and he is believed to be the first conclude. The matter of the first conclude a priest of the chief duty of this new order is to assist priests in administering the Hely Committee by the Bishop, those ordained will probably be allowed to breach. The grantleman are in the secretal was an increase in threwsbury, and he was to de V. Bryans the art of the Aland one of the Blate particular

Two Very Old Newspapers.

From the London Times. Austria-Hungary bonsts of some of the oldest newspapers in the world on the lat of January next the Fresherger Edinsy will commemorate the 12th anniversary of its foundation. A copy of the first issue is preserved at the fixtions Nasoum in Nucl. Pasth. There is, however, a more ancient newspaper by Yloma, namely, the winers Gening, which is the chief and the preserved of the first issue in the preserved at the fixtions.